

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

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O R 101510Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9521
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7586

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, SF, PFOR
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY THIS MORNING THAT MOBUTU WAS NOT AT ALL HAPPY THAT NETO HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE RECENT SUMMIT MEETING OF FRONT-LINE STATES WHILE HE, MOBUTU, HAD BEEN LEFT OUT. MOBUTU VIEWED THIS AS ESSENTIALLY A MANEUVER BY NYERERE, WHOSE MOTIVES VIS-A-VIS ZAIRE AND ANGOLA MOBUTU DOES NOT TRUST.

2. OBVIOUSLY REFLECTING MOBUTU'S THINKING, NGUZA WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT WE NOT BE MISLED BY NYERERE IN OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. KAUNDA, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS A MORE RELIABLE PARTNER, AND NGUZA WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT SCHAUFLELE WAS CONSULTING IN LUSAKA AS WELL AS DAR. NGUZA SAID THE ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD COME TO KINSHASA LATER TODAY TO BRIEF MOBUTU ON THE SUMMIT AND DISCUSS THE STATUS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT: SEEMS EVIDENT MOBUTU IS CONCERNED LEST ZAIRE'S ALREADY MARGINAL ROLE IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DRAMA BE FURTHER REDUCED. HE HAS LONG BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF NYERERE, AND HE MAY GENUINELY FEEL THAT ANGOLA'S INCLUSION IN FRONT-LINE CONSULTATIONS RISKS UNDERMINING CHANCES FOR THE NON-RADICAL SOLUTIONS IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA WHICH ZAIRE REGARDS AS ESSENTIAL FOR ITS
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OWN WELL BEING. IT IS, OF COURSE, POLITICALLY IMPORTANT TO

MOBUTU TO BE VIEWED AS AN ACTIVE PLAYER ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,
AND FOR THIS REASON HE WILL PROBABLY PREVAIL ON KAUNDA TO KEEP
HIM IN THE GAME. SIMILARLY, HE WILL CONTINUE TO COUNT ON OUR
KEEPING IN CLOSEST POSSIBLE TOUCH WITH HIM AS WE PURUSE OUR
AFRICAN STRATEGY.
CUTLER

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